

Ser. No. 10/728,318 (Conf. No: 9374) (Barry G. Lawrence)

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Amendment dated December 22, 2004

Responding to Office Action dated October 20, 2004

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the application, without prejudice, in accordance with the following listing of claims, which replaces all prior versions of claims:

1. (Original) A locking device, comprising:

a keeper defining an internal cavity;

a housing having an interior that defines a keeper recess;

a cam rotatively positioned within said housing;

wherein said keeper selectively engages the keeper recess within said housing; and

wherein said cam selectively engages said keeper within the internal cavity of said keeper.

2. (Original) A device as in Claim 1, further comprising a washer positioned between said cam and said interior of said housing.

3. (Original) A device as in Claim 2, wherein said interior further defines an inset for accommodating and substantially compressing said washer.

4. (Original) A device as in Claim 2, wherein said washer is substantially round.

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5. (Original) A device as in Claim 2, wherein said washer is resilient to vertical and horizontal compression.

6. (Original) A device as in Claim 2, wherein said washer includes a vertical tensioning member that provides a tensioning force in a vertical direction.

7. (Original) A device as in Claim 6, wherein said vertical tensioning member comprises a raised portion that resists vertical compression.

8. (Original) A device as in Claim 2, wherein said washer includes a lateral tensioning member that provides a tensioning force in a horizontal direction.

9. (Original) A device as in Claim 8, wherein said lateral tensioning member comprises a lug extending beyond the diameter of said washer, said lug constructed to resist horizontal compression.

10. (Original) A device as in Claim 9, wherein said interior defines an inset for said washer, said inset defining a notch for correspondingly receiving said lug, the notch positioned to relieve horizontal compression acting on said washer.

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11. (Original) A device as in Claim 10, wherein said lug engages said notch to produce an audible indication thereof.

12. (Original) A device as in Claim 1, wherein said housing further comprises integral supports in said housing interior, said supports enhancing structural integrity.

13. (Original) A window locking mechanism, comprising:

a keeper defining an internal cavity;

a housing defining a keeper recess; and

engagement means for said keeper to engage the keeper recess such that at least part of said keeper engages the keeper recess within said housing.

14. (Original) A window locking mechanism as in Claim 13, wherein said keeper includes a raised portion for engaging the keeper recess.

15. (Original) A window locking mechanism as in Claim 13, wherein said engagement means comprises a solid cam rotatively positioned within said housing, said cam engaging the keeper cavity and urging said keeper to engage the keeper recess within said housing.

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16. (Original) A window locking mechanism as in Claim 13, wherein said engagement means comprises a slotted cam rotatively positioned within said housing that urges said keeper to engage the keeper recess within said housing.

17. (Original) A window locking mechanism as in Claim 13, wherein said engagement means comprises a wedge that urges said keeper to engage the keeper recess within said housing.

18. (Currently amended) A window locking mechanism as in Claim 13, wherein said engagement means urges said keeper to engage said keeper recess such that at least part of said keeper is defined as about 10 percent or more of the surface area of said keeper engages said keeper recess.

19. (Currently amended) A window locking mechanism as in Claim 18, wherein said engagement means urges said keeper to engage said keeper recess such that at least part of said keeper is defined as about all of the surface area of said keeper engages said keeper recess.

20. (Currently amended) A window locking mechanism as in Claim 18, wherein said engagement means urges said keeper to engage said keeper recess such that at least part of said keeper

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~~is defined as about~~ more than about 50 percent of the surface area of said keeper engages said keeper recess.

21. (Currently amended) A window locking mechanism as in Claim 18, wherein said engagement means urges said keeper to engage said keeper recess such that ~~at least part of said keeper is defined as~~ between about 10 and 50 percent of the surface area of said keeper engages said keeper recess.

22. (Original) A window unit having a locking mechanism, said locking mechanism comprising:

a keeper defining an internal cavity;

a housing defining a first tier-recess combination and a second tier-recess combination;

a cam rotatively positioned within said first tier-recess combination; and

a washer positioned between said housing and said cam,

wherein said second tier-recess combination extends along at least a portion of said housing,

wherein said keeper is nestable within the second tier-recess combination.

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23. (Original) A window unit having a locking mechanism as in Claim 22, said locking mechanism comprising a metal material.

24. (Original) A window unit having a locking mechanism as in Claim 22, said locking mechanism comprising a plastic material.

25. (Original) A window unit having a locking mechanism as in Claim 22, wherein said cam is substantially D-shaped.

26. (Original) A window unit having a locking mechanism as in Claim 22, wherein said locking mechanism includes a handle mounted through said first tier-recess combination to rotate said cam.

27. (Original) A device as in Claim 26, wherein said handle includes a graduated shaft, said graduated shaft having a top portion and a bottom portion, said bottom portion defining an opening for receiving a connector.

28. (Original) A window unit having a locking mechanism as in Claim 27, said cam including a graduated aperture for receiving said graduated shaft.

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29. (Original) A window unit having a locking mechanism as in Claim 22, wherein said housing is mounted to a window sash or a window frame.

30. (Original) A window unit having a locking mechanism as in Claim 22, wherein said keeper is mounted to a window sash or a window frame.